

T H E
Buckinghamshire
MIRACLE;
O R, T H E
World's WONDER.

B E I N G

A strange, but true Relation of one Mr. E D-
WARD BARTON, at Ludlow, in the
County of Bucks; who was foretold by a Vision
that he had but a short Time to Live, bidding
him prepare for the next World; adding, That
there will be good Times in England and Wales,
and that Vice, Immorality, and Prophaness will
be suppressed; but that He should not see it,
as he had only thirteen Days to live.

To which is added, a

S E R M O N

Preached at his Funeral by Dr. BOLTON,
Vicar of the said Parish.

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T H E

Buckinghamshire Miracle.

AT Ludlow, in the county of Bucks, lived one Mr. Edward Barton, a wicked gentleman, who followed all sorts of lewd courses, and thereby became an Athiest, denying a future state, and esteeming Religion as a meer fable. — In the same parish lived also one John Wells, a godly, righteous, and charitable man; one that went constantly with his family to the church, and brought up his children in the fear of the Lord, having a good repute amongst his neighbours, exhorting them often to become religious, to observe the rules of the gospel, and to practice a Christian life. — This good man went often to Mr. Barton to perswade him from his wicked life, assuring him of the end of the world, the resurrection of the body, and life eternal; which he told him was the reward of giving to the poor and needy, and so laying up treasure in heaven. — After several conversations of this nature, Mr. Barton became sober, embraced the Christian Religion went constantly to church, and lived a good life, to the Joy of all his friends.

A short time after Mr. Wells was taken sick, in which time Mr. Barton came often to visit him,

him, and in discoursing on the state of men after Death, (in some of which points they could not agree) Mr. Barton proposed to Mr. Wells to



make an agreement that which either died first, should come and give the other an account of the next life, and whether the soul be immortal or not: Mr. Wells declined it, saying he knew not whether it was in the power of any man to perform such a promise; but Mr. Barton being urgent, at length he promised him: and the sequel will shew the reader the truth of the performance.

About three weeks after Mr. Wells died, and was buried on the 2d of January last: Mr. Barton being invited to the funeral, went to church with the corpse, and heard a funeral Sermon which ended, they went to the house of the deceased,

ceased, with other neighbours, to comfort the sorrowful widow ; but finding himself somewhat ill, took his leave. it being then dark, and his way home lying over the church yard, he fancied near the church he saw a light, and coming to the place he saw a tall person, as it were standing in white robes, who came near him, and stood in his way, which somewhat frightened him. The ghost bid him not to fear, for no harm should come to him ; adding, that the Funeral Sermon concerning the Resurrection was true, and of which he would soon be made sensible ; therefore said he, prepare for death, for you have but



a short time to live on earth. I am the spirit of John Wells (permitted to appear to you according to my promise) who often discoursed with you in the flesh concerning the state after death ;
and

and what I told you then was the truth, but you scarcely believed. What you have seen and heard fail not to reveal unto the world for their advantage; warn them to a serious repentance, that they escape Hell, and proceed to the Joys of heaven.

The Protestant Religion shall flourish again, to the Joy of all good Christians, and there shall be happy times in England and Wales; vice, immorality, and prophaness will in a great measure be suppressed; and this shall shortly be, but you shall not live to see it, having but thirteen days to abide in this world. — This said, he disappeared, seemingly sinking under the ground.

The vision much affrighted him, so that he was all in a sweat, and his hair stood up an end, he went to-bed, and spent part of the night in prayer; his wife, to whom he told the whole story, watching by him. In the morning he had a short sleep, after which he said, My time in this world is but short, and my conversation during it shall be otherwise than formerly. Then he arose and refreshed himself with convenient food, and laying aside all worldly business, made his will, giving largely to the poor. The news of this strange thing was soon spread, and many country people came flocking to see him; but he shunned company, and kept himself retired, constantly praying in solitude. He sent for the minister, and communed with him about the state

state of this life, and that to come, the immortality of the soul, and the day of Judgment. Being satisfied in his desires he gave orders that his funeral sermon might be preached from Mat. xxiv. 42.

Then said he, Trouble not yourselves to weep or grieve for me, but for yourselves; I am going where I would have you by righteous ways endeavour to follow me; and upon the twelfth day of his sickness he told them he had not another day to live, and going to-bed desired the minister and his friends to keep him company that night, telling them when he slept he should rise no more till the Resurrection; which so fell out, for he most sweetly departed on the thirteenth Day. He was buried with great solemnity by the grave of Mr. Wells, who appeared to him the church-yard.

The SERMON preached by Dr. BOLTON,
Matthew xxiv. 42.

Watch therefore, for ye knyw not what Hour
your Lord shall come.

My Beloved;

ON the occasion of our dear brother's departure, I shall give you some exhortations to live here, that when you come to die you may be prepared to follow him, and to possess with him the fulness of those Joys which eye hath not seen nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive those things that are laid up
for

for the righteous, nor the torments those feel, who by sin fail of this happiness. — It is appointed for men once to die, and after death the Judgment, How happy will be it for those that do well. — No one is sure how long he has to live, therefore to live well is the greatest happiness; that when the Lord cometh we may be ready to meet him, and go with him into everlasting rest, where is fullness of Joy and pleasures for evermore; death shall not seize you, nor hell affright you, for the Lord shall come with thousands of his angels and saints to judge the earth; whilst the wicked call to the rocks and mountains to cover and hide them from the Judge, he shall say to you, Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into thy master's Joy. Then you that have watched the hour of his coming, and prepared yourselves to receive him, shall ascend triumphantly with him to sit down at his right hand in glory. Then will your bodies reunite with your soul, and receive the reward of your labor in watching the hour of your Lord's coming, and shall shine as the sun in the kingdom of your father. — Tho' a temporal death fall on the righteous, yet they may be rather said to be changed than die, as they only die bodily, for their soul is translated to a happy state, and not capable of dying here, nor doomed to the second death to dwell with devils and damned spirits; but on its departure from the body it is conducted by angels into eternal rest, where it remains till the trump of God shall call

call the body at the last day to reunite with it again; and thus by the death of Christ having got a compleat victory over death and the grave, shall ascend together into heaven, never more to alter its state, but be in fulness of Joy beholding the vision of God.

Lastly, It appears from the scripture, how compassionately the Almighty doth exhort men to repentance, declaring, that whosoever cometh unto him he will in no wise cast out; yea though their sins are of a scarlet dye, even of the greatest magnitude, yet if they will forsake heir evil ways, he will have mercy upon them and save them. Therefore, my beloved brethren, watch and pray, that ye may be prepared for the Lord's coming.—Consider what has been said, and the Lord give you understanding in all things.—Now to God the Father, &c.

The witnesses that were present when he declared in what manner the Spirit appeared to him in the church yard, and what words it spoke to him, took an exact account of the same, and related it before

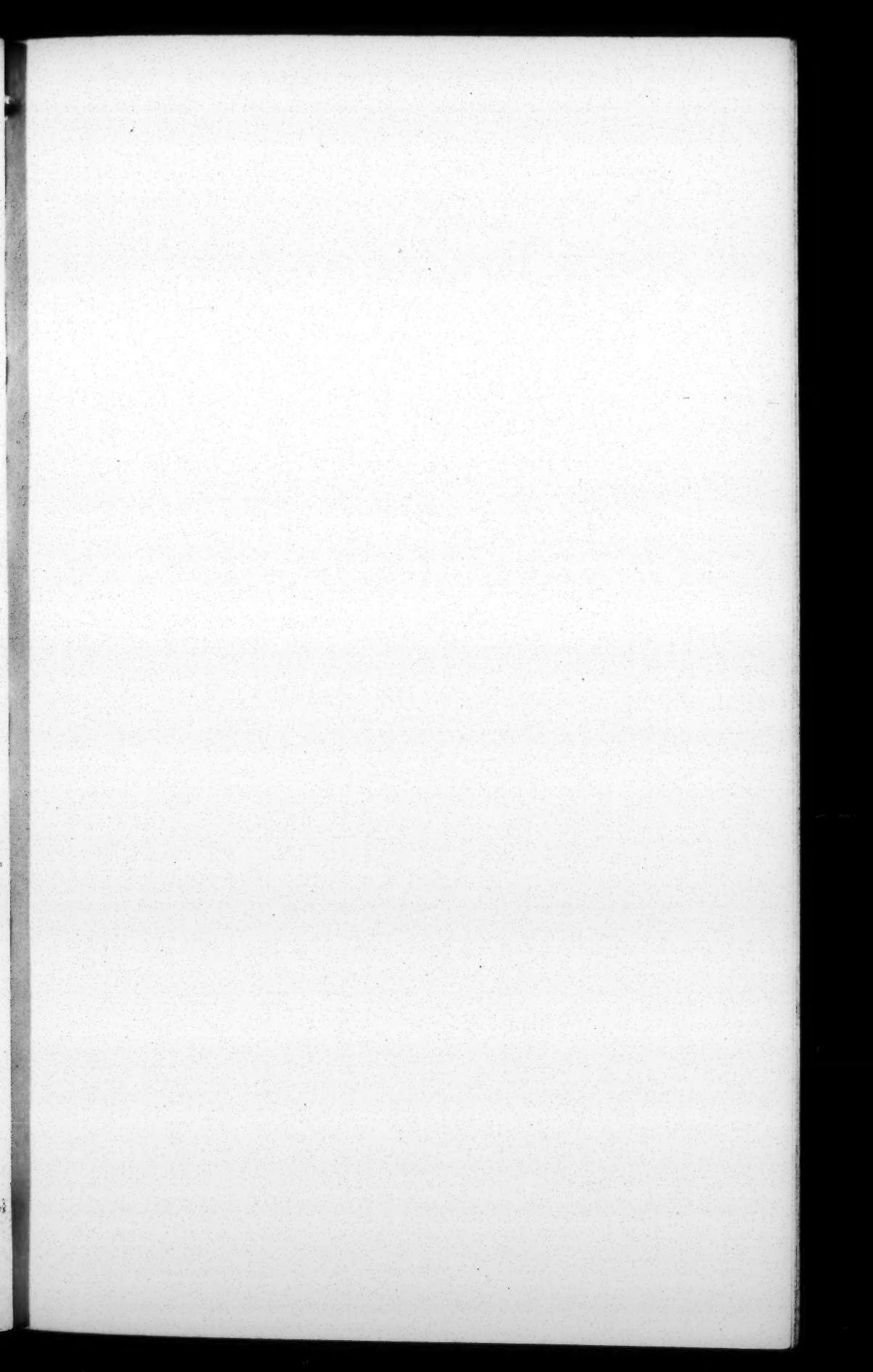
HENRY BOLTON, Vicar.

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F I N I S.





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